



*Australian Association of Developmental Disability Medicine Inc.*

**8 May 2011**

**Productivity Commission  
Australian Government**

**RE: Disability Care and Support Public inquiry**

The Australian Association of Developmental Disability Medicine (AADDM) is a national organisation of medical practitioners who are committed to improving health outcomes for people with intellectual disability. The members of the association provide clinical medical services directly to people (children, adolescents and adults) with intellectual disability, as well as research, education and policy advice to government. We would like to provide the following submission to the productivity commission. Please also find as attachments a recent AADDM proposition of the Place of People with Intellectual Disability in Mental Health Reform and an AADDM position statement on the Health of People with Intellectual Disabilities.

AADDM strongly supports a review of the long term disability care and support scheme. We agree that the current system is fragmented, underfunded and unpredictable. Parents and carers often feel frustrated and extremely concerned about the future welfare of their child. We commend the Australian Government on rising to the challenge of improving this system to better support people with intellectual disabilities.

We would like to emphasise the following issues and concerns;

1. The quality of life of people with intellectual disability is dependent on an acceptable level of general physical and mental health. Current evidence highlights major inequities in access to health services and health outcomes.
2. Improving health services is a cornerstone of improving health outcomes, and this system must involve an effectively integrated primary and specialist health care network for both physical and mental health.
3. People with disability and their carers must have confidence that the service systems will meet their needs throughout their lifespan, with capacity to respond to increased needs at major periods of transition, eg going to school, leaving school.
4. Carers must remain an important component of the “patient/client unit”.
5. Intervention, support and care services must be delivered to provide adequate ongoing support for severe lifelong disabilities, as well as to people who are likely to make significant gains and “normalise” with intervention.
6. Determination of eligibility for services must not be based on diagnosis alone, but coupled with a standardised measure of function, and careful consideration of the accumulation of risks, eg psychosocial adversity, mental health problems.
7. The principles that underpin distribution of funds to people with disability must be similar across the range of impairments, eg client centred.
8. The limitations in current research evidence should be a challenge to government to better fund research into this high risk population, with demonstrated poor health outcomes. This is a priority as funding of services must increasingly be based on evidence.

9. People with intellectual disability need the services of specialist medical practitioners to ensure the generic healthcare system has the ability and expertise to provide high quality healthcare.

Yours sincerely

**Professor Nicholas Lennox**  
President

<p><i>ABN 61 039 294 522 Address:</i> QCIDD, University of Queensland, Mater Hospital, Raymond Tce., South Brisbane, Q, 4101 Phone: (07) 3163 2412 Facsimile: (07) 3163 2445 President: Professor Nick Lennox Secretary: Dr Jacqueline Small</p>
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National and NSW Councils for  
Intellectual Disability



Australian Association of  
Developmental Disability  
Medicine

## POSITION STATEMENT ON THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

**We call for concerted action to redress the poor health status experienced by people with intellectual disabilities.** We make this call to the Australian, and State and Territory, Governments.

There are over 300,000 people with intellectual disabilities in Australia. They have very high rates of health problems and these problems are often not diagnosed or appropriately treated. Life expectancy is reduced by up to 20 years.

There are many causes of this situation, ranging across communication barriers between patients and health professionals, complexity of diagnosis, lack of general and specialised skills in the health workforce, and health promotion campaigns and research not focusing on people with intellectual disabilities.

As well as the **human and financial cost** of poor health for people with intellectual disabilities and their families, there is considerable financial cost to the health, social security and disability service systems.

Governments need to take action to provide equity in health care for people with intellectual disabilities. **All health care planning should include specific consideration of how it will meet the needs of people with intellectual disabilities.**

There also needs to be a national network of health services specialising in the health care of people with intellectual disabilities. These services would be a consultancy and training resource to the mainstream health system so as to enhance its capacity to meet the needs of people with

intellectual disabilities. The specialised services would facilitate collaboration between local health and disability services and undertake research.

We call on the Australian, and State and Territory, Governments to each and together work to redress the inequity in health care experienced by people with intellectual disabilities. **In particular, we call on the Governments to establish a national network of intellectual disability health services.**

February 2009

### Contacts:

Jim Simpson, NSW CID

Ass Prof Nick Lennox, AADDM

### Endorsements

Michael Kidd  
President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners 2002-2006  
Dean of Health Sciences, Flinders University

Stephen Leeder AO  
Director, Australian Health Policy Institute  
Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine

Julian Gardner  
Former Public Advocate, Victoria

Jeanette Moss AM  
Parent advocate

Peter Brooks  
Executive Dean of Health Sciences, University of Queensland  
Professor of Medicine

Bruce Robinson

Dean of Medicine, University of Sydney  
Professor of Medicine

Gwynnyth Llewellyn  
Dean of Health Sciences, University of Sydney  
Professor of Occupation and Leisure Sciences

Kevin Cocks  
Director, Queensland Advocacy Inc  
Human Rights Medallist

David Richmond AO  
Former chief executive of agencies including  
NSW Health and the Olympic Coordination  
Authority

Bill Carter QC  
Retired Supreme Court Judge and Royal  
Commissioner

John Dwyer AO  
Professor of Medicine and Founding Chair,  
Australian Health Care Reform Alliance

Ron Mulock AO  
Former Health Minister and Deputy Premier,  
NSW

Robert Strike  
President, Self Advocacy Sydney and  
Chair, NSW Council for Intellectual Disability

Kim Oates AM  
Professor of Paediatrics and former chief  
executive, the Children's Hospital at Westmead

Guy Hamilton AM  
Former head of intellectual disability services,  
Western Australia

Trevor Parmenter AM  
Professor of Developmental Disability Studies  
and past President, International Association for  
the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities

Kevin Stone  
Parent advocate and executive officer, Victorian  
Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability

Michelle Howard  
Public Advocate - Queensland

John Taplin  
Professor of Psychology, University of Adelaide

Eileen Baldry  
Associate Professor and Associate Dean  
School of Social Sciences and International  
Studies, University of NSW  
Helen Beange AM

Clinical Professor of Medicine

Malcolm Schyvens  
Past President, Law Society of Tasmania

Roger West  
Former President, Guardianship Tribunal, and  
Community Services Commissioner NSW

### **National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission Interim report**

People with intellectual disabilities "face  
stark health inequalities". (p 55)

Primary health care centres need "robust  
links to specialist multidisciplinary health  
teams who are skilled in the management  
of people with intellectual disabilities". (p 96)

### **Pre-election promise**

"Labor does recognise that people with  
intellectual disabilities are disadvantaged  
in the health system. ....In many  
situations, GPs and other health  
professionals require access to specialist  
advice to provide the health services  
people with intellectual disabilities require.  
....The health of people with disabilities  
needs to be part of [our] reform plans."  
(Shadow Ministers Roxon and McLucas, November  
2007)

The **NSW Government** has recently spelt  
out the need for a multi tiered framework  
of action on the health of people with  
intellectual disabilities including the  
establishment of a statewide network of  
specialised intellectual disability health  
services to back up mainstream services.  
(NSW Health (2007), *Development of a service  
framework to improve health care of people with  
intellectual disabilities*)

The **NSW Ombudsman**, who review  
deaths of people with disabilities, has said  
that the proposed NSW framework "is  
critical to improve the health outcomes for  
this vulnerable community".  
(NSW Ombudsman, *Report of Reviewable Deaths  
in 2007*, Vol. 1, p.ix)



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON  
**Intellectual**  
DISABILITY

National and NSW  
Councils for  
Intellectual Disability



Australian Association of  
Developmental Disability Medicine

## POSITION STATEMENT ON THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

**We call for concerted action to redress the poor health status experienced by people with intellectual disability.** We make this call to the Australian, and State and Territory, Governments.

There are over 300,000 people with intellectual disability in Australia. They have very high rates of health problems and these problems are often not diagnosed or appropriately treated. Life expectancy is reduced by up to 20 years.

There are many causes of this situation, ranging across communication barriers between patients and health professionals, complexity of diagnosis, lack of general and specialised skills in the health workforce, and health promotion campaigns and research not focusing on people with intellectual disability.

As well as the **human and financial cost** of poor health for people with intellectual disability and their families, there is considerable financial cost to the health, social security and disability service systems.

Governments need to take action to provide equity in health care for people with intellectual disability. **All health care planning should include specific consideration of how it will meet the needs of people with intellectual disability.**

There also needs to be a national network of health services specialising in the health care of people with intellectual disability. These services would be a consultancy and training resource to the mainstream health system so as to enhance its capacity to meet the needs of people with intellectual disability. The specialised services would facilitate collaboration between local health and disability services and undertake research.

We call on the Australian, and State and Territory, Governments to each and together work to redress the inequity in health care experienced by people with intellectual disability. **In particular, we call on the Governments to establish a national network of intellectual disability health services.**

### **Contacts:**

Jim Simpson, NSW CID

Professor Nick Lennox, AADDM

### **Endorsements - individuals**

Richard Larkins AO  
Former Vice-Chancellor, Monash University &  
President, Royal Australasian College of  
Physicians

Michael Kidd AM  
Dean of Health Sciences, Flinders University  
Former President, Royal Australian College of  
General Practitioners & President-elect,  
World Organisation of Family Doctors

Kevin Cocks AM  
Director, Queensland Advocacy Inc  
Human Rights Medallist

Patrick McGorry AO  
Australian of the Year 2010  
Director, Orygen Youth Health

Stephen Leeder AO  
Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy

Jeanette Moss AM  
Parent advocate

Ron McCallum AO  
Chair 2010, UN Committee on the Rights of  
Persons with Disabilities &  
former Dean of Law, University of Sydney

Fiona Stanley AC  
Director, Telethon Institute for Child Health  
Research, Australian of the Year 2003

Peter Baume AC  
Emeritus Professor of Community Medicine &  
former Federal Health Minister

Ed Byrne AO  
Vice Chancellor, Monash University & former  
Vice Provost (Health), University College London

Nicholas Saunders  
Vice Chancellor, University of Newcastle & former  
Chair, National Health & Medical Research  
Council

Richard Bruggemann  
Professorial Fellow in Disability Studies & former  
CEO, Intellectual Disability Services Council, SA

Julian Gardner  
Former Public Advocate, Victoria

Robert Strike  
President, Self Advocacy Sydney,  
Lifelong Achievement Award, National Disability  
Awards 2009

James Angus AO  
Dean of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences  
University of Melbourne

Nicholas Fisk  
Dean of Health Sciences, University of  
Queensland

John Daly  
Dean of Nursing, Midwifery & Health UTS,  
Chair, Global Alliance for Leadership in Nursing  
Education & Science, & Former Chair, Council of  
Deans of Nursing & Midwifery (Australia & NZ)

David Richmond AO  
Former chief executive of agencies including NSW  
Health & the Olympic Coordination Authority

John Dwyer AO  
Professor of Medicine & Founding Chair,  
Australian Health Care Reform Alliance

Tony Fowke AM  
President, World Federation for Mental Health &  
Mental Health Carers Arafmi Australia

Paul Bauert,  
Director, Paediatric Services, Royal Darwin  
Hospital & President AMA NT

Tony Fitzgerald AC  
Former Royal Commissioner,  
President Queensland Court of Appeal &  
Justice NSW Court of Appeal

Geoff Gallop AC  
Former Premier, Western Australia &  
Director, Graduate School of Government,  
University of Sydney

Phillip Aspinall  
Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia

Errol Cocks  
Director, Centre for Research into Disability and  
Society, Curtin University of Technology

***List of individual endorsers continued at end of document***

**National Health and Hospitals Reform  
Commission final report 2009**

People with intellectual disability “face stark  
health inequalities”.

“Access to specialist medical services is a  
major gap to be addressed for people living  
with an intellectual disability.” (p 82)

“People with intellectual disability die  
prematurely and often have a number of  
unrecognised or poorly managed medical  
conditions as well as inadequate health  
promotion and disease prevention.”

**Primary Health Care Reform in Australia**  
Australian Government 2009

**National Disability Strategy**

“People with disability [will] attain the highest  
possible health outcomes throughout their  
lives.”

“System changes flowing from [mainstream]  
health reforms and initiatives across Australia  
provide important opportunities to improve  
responses to the health needs of people with  
disability.”

Council of Australian Governments 2011

## National organisations

Ability First Australia

Association of Genetic Support of Australasia

Australian College of Rural and Remote  
Medicine

Australian Council of Social Service

Australian Federation of Disability  
Organisations

Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association

Australian Healthcare Reform Alliance

Australian Physiotherapy Association

Australian Society for Special Care in  
Dentistry

Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability

Baptist Union of Australia

Best Buddies Australia

Cancer Council Australia

Carers Australia

Children with Disability Australia

Dietitians Association of Australia

Disability Advocacy Network Australia

Doctors Reform Society

Health Consumers of Rural & Remote  
Australia

Life Without Barriers

Lifestyle Solutions Australia

National Disability Services

National Ethnic Disability Alliance

National Primary Health Care Partnership

National Rural Health Alliance

People with Disability Australia

Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of  
Australia

Professional Association of Nurses in  
Developmental Disability Australia

Public Health Association of Australia

Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Royal Australian and New Zealand College of  
Psychiatrists

Royal Australian College of General  
Practitioners

Rural Doctors Association of Australia

Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia

St John of God Health Care

St Vincent de Paul Society National Council

The Smith Family

UnitingCare Australia

Williams Syndrome Association

Women With Disabilities Australia

Specialised resource services would greatly assist in addressing many of the health inequality concerns identified in research and help Australia meet its commitment to equal health outcomes arising from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Graeme Innes**  
**Human Rights & Disability Discrimination**  
**Commissioner**

The need for Government, both Federal and State, to recognise and address the poor health status of people with intellectual disability is of prime importance, and I am writing to confirm, on behalf of the College's Executive Committee, endorsement of the Position Statement.

**Maria Tomasic, President, Royal**  
**Australian and New Zealand College of**  
**Psychiatrists**

## NSW organisations

Ability Incorporated Advocacy Service,  
Alstonville

Ability Options, Western Sydney

ACES Inc, Port Macquarie

Achieve Australia, NW Sydney

Action for People with Disability, Northern  
Sydney

Aftercare

ADSSI (Aged & Disability Support Services),  
Central Coast

ANGLICARE Sydney

Association of Doctors in Developmental  
Disability

AFFORD (Australian Foundation for Disability)

Biala Support Services, Ballina

Blue Mountains Disability Services

Carers NSW

CareWest, Central & Far West NSW

Caringa Enterprises, Grafton

Catholic Care, SW and Inner West Sydney

CASS Care, Campsie

Central Coast Disability Network

Central Coast Living Options

Central Sydney GP Network

Centre for Disability Studies

Challenge Disability Services, Tamworth &  
north west NSW

Checkpoint parent group, Eastern Sydney

Citizen Advocacy Western Sydney

Coffs Harbour Support Services

Community Links Wollondilly

Community Options Illawarra

The **NSW Government** has spelt out the need for a multi tiered framework of action on the health of people with intellectual disability including the establishment of a statewide network of specialised intellectual disability health services to back up mainstream services.

(NSW Health (2007), *Development of a service framework to improve health care of people with intellectual disabilities*)

The **NSW Ombudsman**, who review deaths of people with disability, has said that the proposed NSW framework “is critical to improve the health outcomes for this vulnerable community”.

(NSW Ombudsman, *Report of Reviewable Deaths in 2007*)

The **NSW Opposition** has supported a current pilot of a new intellectual disability health service and states, “much more needs to be done in terms of meeting the health needs of people with disabilities”.

(Deputy Opposition Leader Jillian Skinner 2010)

Council on the Ageing NSW

Council of Social Service of NSW

Cram Foundation, Illawarra

Currajong Disability Services, Parkes

Dare to Aspire, clinicians for community services

Disability Advocacy NSW

Disability & Aged Information Service, Lismore

Disability Assistance for Shoalhaven Inc

Disability Enterprises, Leura

Disability Information Advocacy Service,  
Bathurst

Down Syndrome NSW

Essential Personnel, South East and South West  
Slopes, NSW

Family Advocacy, NSW

Family Planning NSW

Flintwood Disability Services, Western Sydney

Global Disability and Health Care Services



Greenacres Disability Services, Wollongong

Hunter Carers for Intellectual Disability

IDEAS

Interaction Disability Services, Western Sydney

Intellectual Disability Rights Service

Jewish Care Sydney

Kurrajong Waratah, SW NSW

Lorna Hodgkinson Sunshine Home

Macarthur District Temporary Family Care

McCall Gardens Community, Western Sydney

Mai-Wel Group, Hunter Region

Martin and Associates, Disability Clinicians

Mater Dei, Camden

Motivate You, fitness and personal training

Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association

Nepean Area Disability Organisation

Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies

New Horizons Enterprises

New IDAFE, Port Macquarie

Northcott Disability Services

Northside Enterprises

NSW Bar Association

NSW Nurses Association

On Track Community Programs, Tweed Heads

Parents without Partners NSW

Pathways Early Childhood Intervention, Inner Western Sydney

PATH (Penrith Association for People with Disabilities)

Public Interest Advocacy Centre

SEE Foundation, Western Sydney

St George & Sutherland Community College – Disability Options NSW

St George Migrant Resource Centre

Shopfront Youth Legal Centre

Southlake Community Services Horizons Disability Services, Lake Macquarie

SPOT on DD (Speech therapists, Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists on Developmental Disabilities)

Sunnyfield Association

Sylvanvale Foundation

The Disability Trust, Illawarra

The Housing Connection, Northern Sydney

TNC Leisure Service

Tweed Valley Respite Service

UnitingCare Disability, NSW

UnitingCare NSW ACT

Valley Industries, Taree

Valmar Support Services, South Western Slopes

Waverley Community Living Program

Wesley Disability Services

Western Sydney Intellectual Disability Support Group

Windgap Foundation, Eastern Sydney

Youth Justice Coalition

Almost on a daily basis we experience how deficient the existing health care system is when it comes to people with an intellectual disability. I find it heartbreaking to find clients being turned away as 'having a behaviour' rather than being treated for an abscess, clients being treated for abdominal pain with Gaviscon only to find out later that they are having appendicitis, clients being dismissed as being difficult while suffering from moving kidney stones.

**Vahida Berberovic, CEO, Windgap Foundation**

### **Queensland organisations**

AEIOU Foundation for Children with Autism

ClinEdQ (Clinical Education & Training  
Queensland)

Endeavour Foundation

Guyrow

Health and Community Services Workforce  
Council

Health Consumers Network Queensland

Integrated Family & Youth Service, Sunshine  
Coast & Rockhampton

Mamre Association

Multicap

National Disability Services, Queensland

Parent to Parent Association of Queensland

Queensland Advocacy

Queensland Centre for Intellectual &  
Developmental Disability

Queensland Nurses Union

Queensland Parents for People with a  
Disability

Queensland Support Services & Solutions

Sherwood House Medical Practice, Innisfail

The Umbrella Group, Townsville

Town & Country Community Options,  
Maryborough

UnitingCare Queensland

Vulnerable Clients Program Initiative,  
Queensland Ambulance Service

Warrina Services, Toowoomba

## **SA organisations**

Barkuma

Bedford Group

Health Consumers Alliance

Interwork, Adelaide

Leveda

Orana

SHine (Sexual Health information networking &  
education)

SA Council on Intellectual Disability

## **Tasmanian organisations**

Advocacy Tasmania

Nexus, Hobart

Self Help Workplace, Launceston

Speak Out Advocacy Tasmania

Tascare Society for Children

The Parkside Foundation

## **Victorian organisations**

Annecto – the people network

Carers Victoria

Central Access, northern Victoria

Centre for Developmental Disability Health  
Victoria

Disability Advocacy & Information Service,  
Wodonga

EW Tipping Foundation

Health Issues Centre

Karingal, Geelong

Mambourin Enterprises, Western Melbourne

McCallum Disability Services, Ballarat

Vatmi Industries

Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with  
Disability

Victorian Medicare Action Group

Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service

## **WA organisations**

Activ

Carers WA

Developmental Disability Council of WA

Down Syndrome WA

Health Consumers Council WA

Identitywa

Midway Community Care

Nulsen Association

People With Disabilities WA

SECCA (Sexuality Education Counselling and  
Consultancy Agency)

Valued Independent People

Western Australia Health Consumers' Council

## **ACT organisations**

ACT Council of Social Service

Advocacy for Inclusion ACT

Community Connections

Community Living Association

L'Arche Genesaret

Sharing Places

## **NT organisations**

Carers NT

Down Syndrome Association NT

Integrated Disability Action

## Endorsements – individuals (continued)

Allan Fels AO  
Dean, Australian and New Zealand School of Government

Paul Stein AM  
Chairman, Law & Justice Foundation NSW  
Former Justice, NSW Court of Appeal NSW

Bill Carter QC  
Retired Supreme Court Judge & Royal Commissioner

Justice Sally Thomas AM  
Supreme Court of the Northern Territory

Michael Spence  
Vice Chancellor, University of Sydney

Paul Greenfield AO  
Vice Chancellor, University of Queensland

Ian O'Connor  
Vice Chancellor, Griffith University

Janice Reid AM  
Vice Chancellor, University of Western Sydney

Ross Milbourne  
Vice Chancellor, University of Technology, Sydney

Sandra Harding  
Vice Chancellor, James Cook University

Justin Beilby  
Dean of Health Sciences, University of Adelaide

Nicholas Glasgow  
Dean of Medicine and Health Sciences, ANU

Ian Puddey  
Dean of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences, University of WA

Bruce Robinson  
Dean of Medicine, University of Sydney

Gwynnyth Llewellyn  
Dean of Health Sciences, University of Sydney

Allan Cripps  
Pro Vice Chancellor (Health) &  
Simon Broadley  
Dean of Medicine, Griffith University

Peter Smith  
Dean of Medicine, University of NSW

Ian Wronski  
Pro-Vice Chancellor, Medicine, Health and Molecular Sciences, James Cook University

John Catford  
Dean of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences, Deakin University

Peter Dunkley  
Pro Vice Chancellor Health,  
University of Newcastle

Alison Jones  
Dean of Medicine, University of Western Sydney

Elizabeth Farmer  
Former Dean of Medicine, University of Wollongong

Christopher Peck  
Dean of Dentistry, University of Sydney

Janet Greeley  
Dean of Human Sciences, Macquarie University

Jill Downie  
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Health Sciences,  
Curtin University of Technology

Margot Kearns  
Pro Vice Chancellor & Dean of Nursing,  
University of Notre Dame Australia

People with intellectual disability suffer untreated pain and disease due to a fundamental communication barrier with doctors. It is time for the health system to break down this barrier.

**Kevin Cocks, Human Rights Medallist**

Philip Montgomery  
Former President Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators & Director of Medical & Health Services, Disability Services Commission, WA

Sister Angela Mary Doyle AO  
Former Administrator, Mater Hospitals & Queenslander of the Year

Michael Stanford  
CEO St John of God Health Care &  
WA Citizen of the Year 2010

Chris Sidoti  
Former Australian Human Rights Commissioner

Michael McDaniel  
Adjunct Professor & former Dean of Indigenous Education, University of Western Sydney

Ron Mulock AO  
Former Health Minister & Deputy Premier,  
NSW

John Hannaford  
Former Health & Community Services  
Minister, NSW

Jim Longley  
Former Community Services Minister, NSW

Ann Sherry AO  
Chief Executive Officer, Carnival Australia  
Board member, Independent Panel, National  
Disability Strategy Project Team

Bruce Tonge  
Professor of Psychological Medicine & Head of  
the School of Psychology, Psychiatry and  
Psychological Medicine, Monash University

Philip Mitchell AM  
Professor and Head, School of Psychiatry,  
University of New South Wales

Gordon Parker AO  
Professor of Psychiatry &  
Executive Director, Black Dog Institute

Stewart Einfeld  
Professor of Mental Health  
University of Sydney

Julian Trollor  
Chair in Intellectual Disability Mental Health  
University of NSW

Adrian Keller  
Chair, NSW Branch, Royal Australian & New  
Zealand College of Psychiatrists

Margaret Ward  
Parent advocate & former Deputy Chair,  
Disability Advisory Council of Australia

Faye Druett OAM  
Former Deputy Chair of People with Disability  
Australia & Disability Council of NSW

Robin Banks  
Anti Discrimination Commissioner, Tasmania

Malcolm Schyvens  
Former President, Law Society of Tasmania

Mark Ierace SC  
Senior Public Defender, NSW

Roger West  
Former President, Guardianship Tribunal, &  
Community Services Commissioner NSW

David Richmond AO  
Jane Fraser  
Tony Ovadia  
Leonie Manns  
Andrew Buchanan  
Being all surviving Chairpersons of the, Disability  
Council of NSW 1985 - 2010

The health status of people with intellectual disabilities is appallingly low. Their health needs must take priority – by supporting training for all health providers and implementing specialist health services across Australia.

**Gwynnyth Llewellyn**  
**Dean of Health Sciences**  
**University of Sydney**

Guy Hamilton AM  
Former head of intellectual disability services,  
Western Australia

Trevor Parmenter AM  
Professor of Developmental Disability Studies &  
former President, International Association for  
the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities

Phil Foreman  
Former Dean of Education,  
University of Newcastle

John Taplin  
Professor of Psychology, University of Adelaide

Eileen Baldry  
Justice Medallist & Professor of Criminology,  
University of NSW

Associate Professor Meg Smith OAM  
School of Social Sciences, UWS

Jeremy Ward  
Parent advocate & former Director,  
Queensland Advocacy Inc

Michelle Howard  
Public Advocate Queensland

Graeme Smith  
Public Guardian NSW

Margaret Colville AM  
Deputy Public Guardian of Tasmania

Kevin Stone  
Parent advocate & Executive Officer, Victorian  
Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability

Reverend Jim Colville AM  
Parent Advocate, Tasmania

Peter Brooks AM  
Director, Australian Health Workforce  
Institute, University of Melbourne

Leon Piterman AM  
Professor of General Practice  
& Deputy Dean of Medicine, Nursing and  
Health Sciences, Monash University

Alison Kitson  
Head of Nursing  
University of Adelaide

Helen McCutcheon  
Head of Nursing & Midwifery,  
University of South Australia

Gerald Farrell  
Head of Nursing, La Trobe University

Denise Fassett  
Head of Nursing and Midwifery,  
University of Tasmania

Maxine Duke  
Head of Nursing and Midwifery,  
Deakin University

Elaine Duffy  
Head of Nursing, Midwifery & Indigenous  
Health, Charles Sturt University

Iain Graham  
Head of School of Health and Human  
Sciences, Southern Cross University

Andrew Cashin  
Professor of Nursing, Southern Cross  
University

Chris Mitchell  
Former President, Royal Australian College of  
General Practitioners

Susan Hayes AO  
Professor of Behavioural Sciences in  
Medicine, University of Sydney

Patricia O'Brien  
Professor of Disability Studies, University of  
Sydney & former Director, National Institute  
for Intellectual Disability, Trinity College,  
Dublin

Tammy Jennings & Mark Parnell  
Greens MLCs, South Australia

Michelle Stagg and Dell Stagg,  
Parent advocate and President, SA Council  
on Intellectual Disability

Jan May OAM  
Parent advocate

Jackie Softly  
Parent advocate and former Chair,  
Ministerial Advisory Committee on Disability, WA

John Entwistle  
Parent advocate, GP and former member,  
National Disability Advisory Council

Grant Lindsay, Donna Rousham and  
Esther Tan,  
Parent advocates, Northern Territory

John Homan,  
Parent advocate and inaugural Member,  
Disability Council of Queensland

Maria Circuit  
Parent advocate and former Chair, NSW Council  
for Intellectual Disability

Pam Morris  
Parent advocate

Antonia Scott  
Former President, Down Syndrome NSW &  
Lecturer in Dentistry

Chris Cunneen  
Professor of Criminology, Cairns Institute &  
School of Law

Neil Preston OAM  
CEO, Greenacres Disability Services, NSW

Robert Yeoh AM  
Former President, Alzheimer's Australia

Adrian Sleight  
Professor, National Centre for Epidemiology &  
Population Health, ANU

Kim Oates AM  
Professor of Paediatrics & former CEO,  
Children's Hospital at Westmead

John O'Donnell  
CEO, Mater Health Services, Brisbane

Helen Beange AM  
Clinical Professor of Medicine

Brendan Crotty  
Head of School of Medicine, Deakin University

Haydn Walters  
Professor of Medicine, Universities of Tasmania  
& Notre Dame Australia

Geoff Mitchell  
Professor of General Practice & Head, MBBS  
Program Ipswich, University of Queensland

Michael Field  
Associate Dean, Sydney Medical School

Bronwyn Hemsley  
Postdoctoral Fellow (Public Health), University  
of Queensland

Kathy Ellem  
Parent Advocate and Postdoctoral Research  
Fellow, University of Queensland

James Morton  
Haematologist & Oncologist, &  
Founder, AEIOU Foundation

Elona Lang OAM  
Disability service manager

Ian Dempsey  
Associate Professor of Education & Editor,  
Journal of Intellectual & Developmental  
Disability

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